

50X1-HUM

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Radio Sets

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1. [] a "Lorenz" radio receiver, of German manufacture [] operated on electricity and had a short, medium, and long-wave bands. In 1949 [] paid 85,000 leva for it, second hand. At present a similar radio receiver costs 3,000 leva.
2. Spare parts for this set are unavailable on the market. Tubes and spare parts of other makes can be used, however these reduce the volume and the clarity of reception.
3. No permit is required to purchase radio receivers or spare parts, but all radios must be registered at the Radio Set Section of the corresponding Post Office after its purchase. If a radio is not registered within three months of purchase, the authorities are entitled to confiscate it. The tax on radio receivers amounts to 60 leva upon registration, and an annual tax of 47 leva on any receiver, regardless of its size. These taxes are payable to the Post Office, Radio Sets Section.
4. In Siva Reka (N26-05, E41-47), Svilengrad Okoliya, there are 14 radio receivers and 160 loudspeakers connected to the village wired radio service. Of the 14 privately owned radio receivers one belongs to a Communist, nine to anti-Communists, and four to persons with no political affiliation.

Foreign Anti-Communist Broadcasts

5. Officially, there are no restrictions on listening to foreign anti-Communist radio broadcasts. The fear created among the population that they will be accused of spreading rumors makes them listen to foreign broadcasts with caution, so that they may not be overheard by others. There are people who are so afraid, that they do not listen to foreign broadcasts, even though they possess radio receivers.

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6. If the authorities have evidence that a certain person listens systematically to foreign broadcasts, [redacted] the person would be charged with activity against the state and sentenced. 50X1-HUM

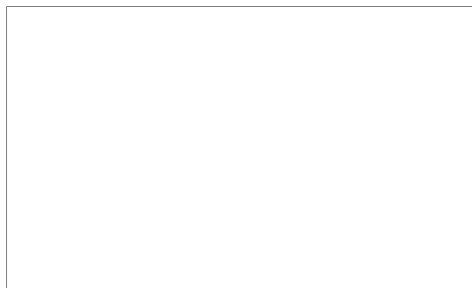
7. Quite frequently the electric power is turned off from the power plant shortly before the scheduled time of a foreign anti-Communist broadcast. If the authorities know that certain persons have listened to foreign broadcasts, they are given strict warnings not to listen. The local authorities also ridicule persons who listen to foreign broadcasts, by wall newspapers and the radio wired service. In Lozen (N26-02, E41-48), for example, the following cartoon was exposed on the village square:

A radio set with an inscription above saying "Radio America speaking". A person with a gaping mouth opposite the radio set with the name of Stoyu Stoyanov. At the bottom of the cartoon another inscription: The fox followed the ram expecting that he drop the things that hang, but in vain. Under the inscription was the picture of a fox following a ram. 50X1-HUM



The programs of VOA are more frequently listened to than the other stations, because the population believes that since the United States is leading the fight against Communism, VOA broadcasts more first-hand news and treats international events more competently. RFE is also much listened to because it treats the subject matter in a way that appeals to the Bulgarian people. RFE is regarded as a station that is managed by Bulgarians who are dedicated to the fight against Communism. [redacted] these foreign broadcasts keep the spirit of the population high and inform the people on the international events and the stand which the Western Powers take. 50X1-HUM

10. The foreign broadcasts are constantly "jammed". Sometimes the jamming is not constant, while other times the broadcasts are totally jammed and nothing can be heard except separate words.
11. News heard from foreign anti-Communist broadcasts is spread among trusted friends and accompanied by commentaries.



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